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Following the enormous success of the last MK Job Show another will be taking place at Middleton Hall, centre:mk, Milton Keynes in January 2015.

'There will be even more companies promoting even more jobs this time' says Mike Bickerdike exhibition organizer.

The exhibitions main sponsor is BSH Home Appliances Group. Head of Human Resources Nathan Coburn says 'BSH Home Appliances Group is delighted to be the main sponsor of the MK Job Show for the second time and will be taking centre stage on 23rd and 24th January 2015 at The Centre:MK where our employees and hiring managers will be on hand to offer advice on current and future vacancies.

2014 saw enormous success with our brands Bosch, Neff and Siemens and in turn we continued to hire great talent into our organization.

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Other sponsors include Travis Perkins PLC, Volkswagen Financial Services, EasyJet, Home Retail Group, PJ Care, HIT Training, Jaltek, BSI and MK News and MK Web are the media sponsors again.

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MK NEWS

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Make a date with movie-star OAPs

SEE PAGE 18

Simon's set to pedal into the record books

SEE PAGE 9

CAB and homeless hostel face closure

BY JAMES AVERILL

james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

CRIPPLING budget cuts look set to axe the city's Citizens Advice Bureau – while a hostel that faces closure could see an extra 350 homeless people on our streets.

Both the Milton Keynes CAB and MK YMCA face losing their council funding entirely – as the local authority has to make savings of £22million in its 2015/16 budget.

It could leave residents without a free and independent advice service to lean on and an increase in the number of people sleeping rough.

At a fiery council meeting on Monday, both organisations pleaded with the council not to withdraw their funding.

Milton Keynes YMCA operates the hostel from its base in North Sixth Street, as well as offering 123 flats to let to young people aged 18-35. It faces losing its £194,000 funding for staff to run the hostel.

"We are a safety net for people who have nowhere to go," explained Simon Green, YMCA's housing manager. "That safety net is about to disappear if these budgets cuts are passed through."

Chief executive Ian Revell added: "We can retain the flats, but you can't run a hostel with no staff."

One person who relies on the hostel is Craig Rawstron, a former high-flying IT worker in London who ended up divorcing his wife and becoming an alcoholic.

He said: "Before the YMCA took me in I was living in a leaking tent in a forest in the west of Milton Keynes with a group of class A drug users.

"It was an eye-opener and the YMCA saved me from that."

Hoping for a change of mind: Simon Green and Ian Revell, from Milton Keynes YMCA, hope that the council's decision to withdraw its £194,000 funding will be reconsidered. The city's Citizens Advice Bureau also faces closure due to cuts

Meanwhile the council is ending a contract for the CAB to provide free, independent advice to residents on their rights and responsibilities in October 2015.

The CAB dealt with 22,000 cases between April 2013 and March 2014 and the removal of the £260,000 contract will result in its closure at the end of the year, according to chief executive Steve Naylor.

He said: "We are reliant on council funding. I hope the decision to withdraw it is reconsidered."

Also facing loss of funding is the Get SET Get Parenting Service at MK Dons Sport and Education Trust, which helps families and gives parenting courses.

Council leader Pete Marland said: "This is a draft budget, so we are open to ideas on how to work with these groups to find a more efficient way of operating. I am not proud of this budget and we will have to stop some services. It's very difficult to save £22million with no losers."

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Union launches legal challenge

THE Fire Brigades Union will begin legal proceedings against Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority over the sacking of a firefighter.

Fire chiefs sacked Ricky Matthews, from Bletchley, *pictured above*, when he took strike action for four days on October 31. The fire authority says the FBU incorrectly called strikes on those dates and that he was fired after not turning up to work.

Matt Wrack, FBU general secretary, said: "We had a QC waiting to defend our strike call but it went unchallenged. We'll contest that Ricky took unlawful action."

A protest was held over Ricky's dismissal in Aylesbury yesterday, but chief fire officer Mark Jones retorted: "No amount of demonstrations will affect legal proceedings."

Business dries up for lake firms

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

BUSINESSES at Willen Lake claim they are losing customers since parking charges were introduced.

In March 2011 The Parks Trust, which owns the car park next to the lake, decided to start charging drivers to park there.

It leased the car park to Napier Parking, which now charges 80p for the first hour, £1.20 for up to two hours, £2.20 for up to four hours and £4 for all day.

Jane Young, 41, owner of beauty salon Blissfully Young, said: "It is a major problem which is why I am thinking of relocating.

"When there are park runs at weekends and big events it's just chaos with hundreds of runners forcing my customers to park elsewhere, which for those in their 70s is not possible."

General manager at LA Fitness Pat Mills said: "This is a huge problem. It is like having to pay a double membership as the price of parking is between £20 to £30 a month. We just can't compete with other gyms because of the parking and it would really help if we could do a membership discount or deal. Many customers have said parking costs has just killed the atmosphere of the lake."

Briony Fox from the trust said: "Our market research indicates Willen Lake is our most frequently visited and most popular park.

"Charges at our car parks are set at what we consider to be a reasonable rate and have remained static since March 2011. For regular visitors there is the option to purchase an annual permit.

"We have received no complaints about parking charges at Willen Lake this year."

Complaints: Jane Young and Pat Mills say parking charges at Willen Lake are hitting business with customers complaining

Fraudster used Facebook for online scams

A MAN has admitted a number of fraud offences in which he used Facebook pages to sell items in MK.

Jack Belton, 19, of Penzance Avenue, Wigston, Leicestershire, pleaded guilty to failing to supply goods, false representation, fraud, possession of articles for use in fraud and acquiring criminal property.

He was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for two years, and a two-year supervision order at Leicester Crown Court on Friday.

Enquiries by Leicestershire Police in 2013 identified Belton had sold items using social media and the goods had originally been bought using a number of compromised credit cards, details of which were obtained via the internet.

During the investigation, Thames Valley Police received information that a man claiming to be Malik Gold was using a Facebook page used for selling items in Milton Keynes. Information suggested Gold was selling counterfeit money, cloned credit cards and fake bank transfers for sale.

PC Steven Hobby said: "This has been a protracted and complex investigation and has involved more than a year's work."

Woman threatened with pole

A WOMAN was pushed and threatened with a metal pole by three men who claimed they were from immigration.

At about 4.30pm last Wednesday the men knocked on the door of the property in Veryan Place, Fishermead, and said they wanted to see the occupants' passports.

The victim was told to go into the living room with her husband and young child while the men searched the house. No property was stolen.

Two of the offenders were white and one was black. All three were around 5ft 8ins and all were wearing black clothing with their hoods up and faces covered.

Anyone with information should call Detective Greg Hughes on 101.

See more reaction and a picture gallery online mkweb.co.uk/news

Targeted: Police cordoned off the Red Bull factory in Tilbrook on Saturday after thieves struck

Red Bull rocked by trophies raid

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

RED Bull's Formula One team principal Christian Horner has spoken of the team's devastation after more than 60 trophies were stolen from their Milton Keynes factory at the weekend.

Police were called to the factory in Bradbourne Drive, Tilbrook, at 1.30am on Saturday after a group of around six raiders had forced their way into the premises by driving a vehicle through the entrance.

Red Bull won four consecutive constructors' championships from 2010-2013, while driver Sebastian Vettel won the drivers' championship in each of those years.

It has not been revealed whether any of the championship trophies were stolen.

Thames Valley Police are now appealing for information about the incident, which Mr Horner said could make the site 'less accessible' in the future.

"We are obviously devastated by this serious factory break-in, which saw offenders steal more than 60 trophies which took years and hard work to accumulate," he said. "The offenders took items that not only did not belong to them, but which represented the efforts of a group of dedicated, hard-working individuals."

Mr Horner said the value of the trophies stolen was 'low' in monetary terms and some were replicas. But he added: "The value to the team is of course extraordinarily high due to the sheer hard work and effort that went into winning each and every one."

If you have any information that may help the investigation, contact Milton Keynes Force CID on the non-emergency number, 101.

Spray surprises shopper

THE owner of a white BMW one series returned to find her car had been sprayed with black paint in the Waitrose car park in Oakgrove.

On Tuesday last week the 31-year-old victim returned to her motor to see that black paint had been sprayed across the sides and back of the vehicle.

It is believed to have happened between 2.30pm and 4.30pm while the car was parked in the car park, close to the Ada Walk entrance.

If you have any details that could help, contact PC Shantell Woodward on 101.

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Find parking solution

AS A long-term resident of MK the success of the city has been the ease with which cars can get from A to B and park without too much difficulty.

In my view there should be greater emphasis on offices being located outside of the main shopping area.

What is the point in cars taking up valuable consumer space? After all that is partly what brings wealth to the city.

So Milton Keynes Council should concentrate on bringing employers to smart office complexes – Kiln Farm, Great Linford, Shenley's Santander etc used to lead the way in this approach but it seems lost as a strategy.

Furthermore, it is surely the right time to revisit some express routes, for rush hours only perhaps to start with, that operate solely on the grid roads.

I do have a lot of sympathy with parents juggling the school run with work times as I have been there and done that myself so perhaps there could be a system of reserve/prioritisation for them.

Perpetuating the existing regime will erode the travel advantages of our wonderful MK.

Name and address supplied

Car park cash question

THE parking situation for employees is horrendous.

Why have premium rate parking close to business offices? This reduces the amount of parking office workers can afford to use.

I would be interested to know how much revenue the premium rate parking generates where it is close to offices or do the majority of the premium rate parking spaces stay empty all day?

I also think the discount offered to employees is not generous enough.

There aren't any transport links in the North Bucks town I live in to Milton Keynes, which would enable me to travel on public transport so I have to drive in.

Name and address supplied

I can't use scratchcards

I WORK at Santander House and start work at 9.30am as I have child care commitments.

I use employee scratchcards but I am unable to find parking where the employee E1 scratchcards are valid when I arrive at 9.15-9.20am.

I cannot park where my permit is valid unless I am parked by 9.05am (the only exception to this is Fridays).

After 9.05am there are no parking spaces for E1 permit holders in the parking zones A1,A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, area between B3 and A4, C1, C2 an C3.

The other zones are more than a quarter of a mile (more than 15 minutes walk) away from where I work.

If I have to park more than a 15-minute walk away it is not possible for me to get into work on time.

This issue has forced me to have to make expensive alternative arrangements for child care so I can arrive in time to park as I do not wish to have to pay £11.20 per day to park in the premium tariff spaces in addition to the employee parking that I have already paid for.

The current parking situation unfairly penalises those who, due to caring responsibilities, cannot arrive to park prior to 9.05am. I'm sure you understand that I find this upsetting, frustrating and very disappointing.

I feel that the council must take urgent action on the issue of parking in CMK if it is to support people working who, through caring responsibilities, cannot start work at 9am since the Government has already taken steps to support these individuals through flexible working.

Alice Little

Sent via email

Should I give up work?

I AM a part-time employee and have children to drop-off at school and nursery prior to coming into work in Central Milton Keynes.

I work for Santander and park outside Staples, however, it is a fight for the last spaces when I arrive around 8.45am, which is the earliest I can possibly get there.

The parking issue is a real problem and if I arrive late for any reason (say 8.55am) I have nowhere to park other than a red bay, which means it is costly to me and not worth coming in.

I feel the parking situation inhibits part-time working and prevents working parents from accessing the office. I am aware this affects many other part-time workers in Milton Keynes.

Often I question whether it is worth me working when it is such a challenge to find a parking space. I feel deterred as a consequence of this parking problem.

Name and address supplied

No room for part-timers

I WORK part-time at Santander House, CMK, and the parking situation has made working flexible hours impossible for working parents.

The overfill car park opposite ToysRus is now full by around 9.10am.

For parents who have to drop off children before coming to work, it now means that parking is very difficult and when a parking place is found it can be a 10-15 minute walk away from the office.

This situation has made working 9.15am to 2.45pm impossible, which is indirect discrimination against part-time workers.

Name and address supplied

I DO not understand why the council is not making parking a priority as more and more jobs are being created in Milton Keynes.

There are some obvious quick wins – such as a whole row in the overfill car park being disabled parking, which understandably is always empty as a disabled individual would have to walk quite far to get to any organisation.

It also begs the thought as to why there are no multi-storey car parks being built urgently.

Nadia Sattar

Sent via email

Why not use buses?

THE parking problem can only be solved in one of two ways:

1. Create more spaces.
2. Reduce demand for spaces.

Creating more spaces defers the problem to the future, since the city is growing, and removing premium spaces will impact business because there will be nowhere available for local shoppers to park if they need to for a short period of time.

Other cities have addressed the problem with park and ride schemes, which if priced appropriately and with the right frequency of service, provide a good alternative to parking in the city. I do not understand why the council has not yet considered this, given the availability of land outside the centre.

Russell Sharpe

Sent via email

Think about spaces

A COUPLE of suggestions following your parking articles.

Allow permit holders to park in premium space bays as this would increase the number of spaces available to employees in much-needed locations.

Also developing a multi-storey car park on one of the current overflow car parks could provide a significant improvement in available spaces.

The ever increasing problem appears to be caused by the reduction in purple rate bays through development on the land or increased volumes of premium space bays.

It seems like increases in parking volumes are not accounted for when new buildings are built. A recent example would be the Pinnacle building that was developed on a car park thus reducing spaces. It had some spaces reallocated around it as premium spaces but it brought more people in to work at the building further increasing demand for spaces.

David Peet

Sent via email

Drive forward change

WELL done everyone who has contacted MK NEWS in support of CMK parking (and congratulations to your newspaper for publicising the issue).

CMK is hugely important as a retail, leisure, cultural, transport and business hub and we need to work together to find some solutions that meet the need of its residents, businesses, employees, commuters and shoppers.

I was pleased that as MK's cabinet member for transport and highways in 2011-2013, I was able to regrade many hundreds of parking spaces from premium (red) to standard (purple) or free short-stay. However, it is clear that more needs to be done to enable more people to visit CMK, by all modes of transport.

For people who share my view that this issue is crucial to the long-term success of CMK and indeed MK as a whole, can I offer some ideas for how you can help build momentum to make things happen:

As well as tweeting and writing to the newspaper, please contact your councillor.

If your councillor is generally pro-motorists and pro-business, tell them you agree. If your councillor belongs to one of the anti-motorist, anti-enterprise parties, tell them why you disagree.

Make your councillors realise this is important. Keep up the pressure by coming to council meetings and asking the administration what they are doing about parking in CMK.

Please get involved when the council is developing its policies on this subject.

The council is developing plans for the Midsummer Boulevard area and shortly will be developing a new all-embracing local plan, called Plan:MK. So get involved, have your say and make sure your local councillors know parking is important.

Also, please get involved with local planning applications that will affect parking in CMK. If you want to have your say at the committee, it's very easy to book and the views of local people are always taken seriously.

Actually, there's a planning application being considered at the moment for a multi-storey car park near John Lewis – so if you have a view, get involved.

Together, we can make things happen on this.

Councillor John Bint

MK Conservatives

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Lit up: Residents, including some in Melrose Avenue, Bletchley, have got into the Christmas spirit

Festive photos wanted!

ARE you crackers about Christmas? Are you the biggest fan of the festive season in Milton Keynes?

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Questions over parking income

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

MILTON Keynes Council is raking in £8.8million profit from parking charges MK NEWS can reveal – but still intends to raise parking charges to fund 2,000 new extra parking spaces.

A council spokesman said the money was 'ring fenced for transport improvements such as new technology, more parking spaces and bus subsidies.'

But despite making millions of pounds in profit in 2013/14, which will rise to £14million with the additional spaces – the council is increasing charges to pay for the spaces, while cutting bus subsidies by £1million.

It left the council fending off questions about what the money was being spent on.

At a meeting at the civic offices on Monday, Alan Francis, of Milton Keynes Bus Users Group, asked: "Why if the pot of money coming in is going up, are bus subsidies going down?"

Cabinet member for transport, Mick Legg, replied: "Running empty buses is not sustainable. We are talking to operators to see if services can be tweaked."

Great Linford parish councillor David Stabler also questioned what the money was being spent on.

He told MK NEWS: "There is missing money and they are not being transparent on how it is being spent.

"I asked questions and didn't get the answers.

"They're going to get £14million surplus, where is that money going?"

Cllr Legg responded: "We have lost a lot of funding from the general pot."

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Transport chief writes to us

THE cabinet member responsible for transport has written to MK NEWS to clarify the council's position on parking.

Cllr Mick Legg wrote:

"I would like to take this opportunity to address the issues raised by your paper regarding parking in Central Milton Keynes.

"Milton Keynes has far more parking spaces than any other comparable town or city with over 20,000 parking spaces within close proximity to the city centre.

"Over half of these spaces are at the standard rate which city centre employees can buy discounted scratchcards or parking permits for.

"The council's parking team measure the occupancy rates for parking spaces across the city centre at different times of the day and even at peak times there are still spaces available in the multi-storeys and designated bays.

"For those who arrive after 9am and find it difficult to find a purple bay, the Theatre District multi-storey car park has a number of spaces available throughout the day at reasonable rates.

"A Transport and Parking Strategy for CMK is being developed which will set out where additional parking is required.

"This will then go out to public consultation in 2015."

Read the letter in full at www.mkweb.co.uk

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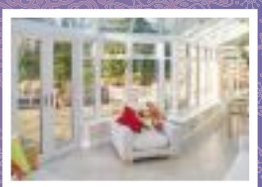

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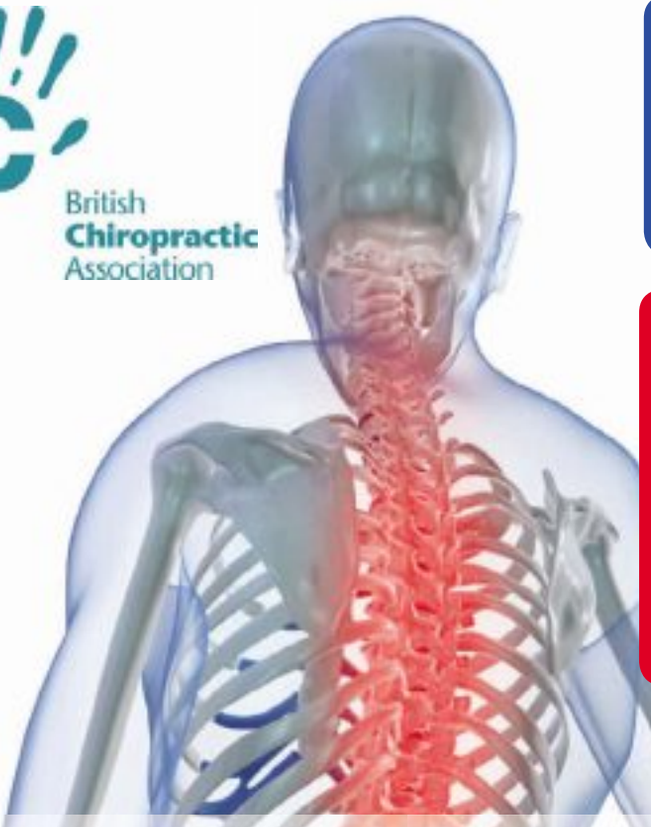

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MK is just Jamie's cup of T

Turn on the light: The streets of Milton Keynes feature in Jamie T's latest video called Rabbit Hole

AN AWARD-WINNING singer-songwriter has released his latest music video which features the streets of Milton Keynes.

The video for Rabbit Hole, the second single taken from Jamie T's latest album Carry on the Grunge, sees the camera move down a street with special effects and Jamie popping in and out.

For director Roger Sargent, 44, Milton Keynes ticked all the boxes for the video.

The photographer and filmmaker said: "I have friends here and the long streets and grid system was exactly what I needed for the video."

In the video areas such as Planet Ice and Silbury Boulevard are obvious to see.

Roger wanted to steer clear of the cliché areas in east London and filmed on location in Hitchin and Stevenage as well as Milton Keynes.

Roger admits Jamie did not actually come to the city, adding: "Jamie's bit was the easiest part and done in front of a green screen. Jamie was very busy and we only had him for an hour-and-a half."

The whole video took three weeks to produce with two of them spent editing the individual frames together.

Union upset at 'privatisation'

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

THE partner of a Milton Keynes mother who strangled her to death and then committed suicide should have been supervised more, according to the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO).

Serena Hickey, 42, from Emerson Valley, was found dead in a Premier Inn in Kempston, Bedford, on September 13. She had been murdered by her partner Darren Ellis, who committed suicide on a rail track in Warwickshire later that same day. But in a letter to Justice Secretary Chris Grayling MP, NAPO says Ellis was allocated to an 'overworked' trainee probation service officer (PSO) instead of a more senior member of staff due to staff shortages.

The association says Ellis, who had a history of domestic violence, should have had a home visit from the trainee PSO every four months. But the organisation says the PSO was 'too overworked' to carry out the visits.

It argues Serena's murder is an example against Mr Grayling's plans to privatise the probation service, as the short-staffed Warwickshire office was one of 21 new private 'community rehabilitation companies' taking on supervision duties. NAPO said: "The reforms which have been rushed through by Chris Grayling, Secretary of State, will see 70 per cent of the probation service privatised by early next year."

A Ministry of Justice spokesman said: "Public safety is a key priority and we have tested our progress at every stage. We will be robustly defending the allegations (made by NAPO) and expect new providers to be in place by early 2015."

Rail fares set for New Year rise

WORKERS who commute from Milton Keynes to London are facing another round of hefty fare increases after Christmas.

The cost of a season ticket from Milton Keynes Central to Euston is expected to rise to £4,939 in January, up from the current £4,772 and an increase of more than £1,000 since 2010 when a season ticket cost £3,832.

New figures shows that a commuter earning £25,000 will be paying around 20 per cent of their gross salary on rail fares next year, adding to the squeeze on living standards affecting many families.

What do you think?
letters@mk-news.co.uk

Andrew Pakes, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Milton Keynes South, said: "The cost of a season ticket has risen by 29 per cent since 2010, despite promises by Ministers to sort this mess out.

"How many people have seen their wages go up by anything near this amount in recent years?"

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MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

M14373

Simon saddles up for success

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

A CITY man is planning the trip of a lifetime when he tries to cycle more than 75,000 miles in a single year.

Steven Abraham, 40, begins his challenge on New Year's Day, and he will have to cycle an average of 205 miles a day to reach his target.

He has quit his job as a warehouse worker at IKO Nippon Thompson in Crownhill to take on the challenge that he has wanted to do his entire life.

He is trying to beat the world record set by Tommy Godwin in 1939 for the longest number of miles covered by a cyclist in one year.

Mr Abraham will avoid towns and big hills in his attempt to break the record and will be mainly cycling in areas such as Lincolnshire, parts of Yorkshire, Norfolk and maybe even Essex.

"I've done similar stuff to this before, but this is just a little bit more," said Steven, who lives in Two Mile Ash.

"I've always been into endurance cycling and I'm really looking forward to it.

"I really think I've got a chance of doing it."

The challenge isn't going to be easy for Mr Abraham – he must travel between 170 and 180 miles a day through the winter, before upping his milage to about 300 a day in the summer.

He expects to use 45 tyres during the challenge.

An experienced endurance cyclist, Mr Abraham has already taken part in a 1,000km ride over just three days this year.

He is being sponsored by Raleigh Bicycles and Schwalbe Professional Bike Tyres.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Bedford, Milton Keynes & Leighton Buzzard areas and Billy is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Billy a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Cheers: Imran Khan was handed a £1,000 cheque after serving a lunchtime party of festive diners enjoying their Christmas bash

Korma-gain!

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

A LUCKY waiter was rewarded with a £1,000 tip after serving a lunchtime Christmas party at a city restaurant.

Imran Khan served a party of 20 diners who had booked their festive bash at B-Town – an Indian street food restaurant in Grafton Gate – and enjoyed a three-course meal, drinks and Champagne.

But, as they were about to leave a gentleman handed Mr Khan a piece of paper.

Upon unfolding it, the startled waiter discovered it was in fact a cheque for £1,000.

Stunned, Mr Khan said: "I am completely blown away. I would never have expected something like this and am incredibly humbled."

B-Town's owner, Mo Abdul, said: "This time of year is always good for tips but we could never have expected something like this. The gentleman has been here a few times but this was the first time he brought his colleagues, who loved the food and will be back again.

"I can't wait to see him again to say a huge thank you from me and all the team. It has really made our Christmas."

Mr Khan has decided to cash the cheque and share it between the staff.

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Bus station 'is health hazard'

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

CONCERNS have been raised over the state of the old bus station after it was listed by English Heritage.

As previously reported by MKWeb and MK NEWS, Milton Keynes Bus Station, now home to The Buszy, was praised by English Heritage as an architectural masterpiece and is now Grade II-listed.

But despite the praise, Celia Hart from Great Linford is concerned that the area is a hazard to public health and has been taking pictures of rubbish around the site since March this year.

Ms Hart said: "Children visiting The Buszy during holidays for activities, several health clubs that regularly use the studios and pedestrians walking around this public space could be injured.

"The litter now includes a mattress that has been there for three weeks and must attract rats."

Ms Hart has taken pictures of loose and broken paving slabs and rubbish.

Dirty: Pictures of the old bus station taken by resident Celia Hart

The area is owned by Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) and is currently home to Make A Difference (MAD) – a not for profit organisation which runs activities for young people in The Buszy.

A spokesman from MKDP said: "MKDP acquired the Buszy as part of the asset transfer from the HCA.

"Property management agents have been instructed to monitor the situation and a review of maintenance and maintenance obligations is underway.

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Arts Central booted out of centre home

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

AN ARTS charity has been given 28 days notice to leave its city centre premises by Scrooge landlords over the Christmas period.

Arts Central, which is based on the third floor of South Station House in Elder Gate and supports the promotion of arts in the city, will have to move out after being told to leave by landlords Threadneedle.

A number of world renowned artists use the space to work on projects – but they will have to pack up their easels ahead of Christmas.

It is thought the group has been told to leave due to commercial interest in the city centre building.

John Best is chairman of Arts Gateway MK, the umbrella organisation that Arts Central comes under.

And while he accepts the landlords have every right to evict them due to commercial interest, he admits he is disappointed with the timing over the festive season.

Moving out: Arts Central has been given 28 days notice over Christmas to leave. The timing has upset John Best, *inset*

He told MK NEWS: "When I first heard we were getting notice over the Christmas period I was very upset.

"People don't want to be dismantling furniture and clearing their office over Christmas.

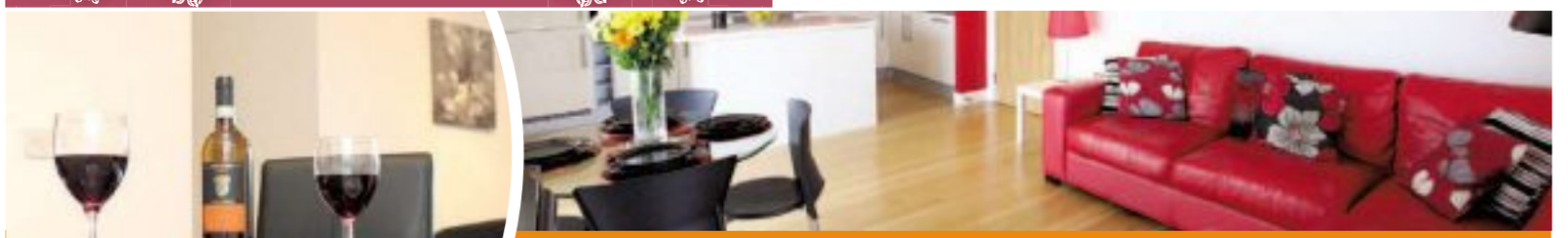
"We of course understand their position, but we are appealing for a bit more time to sort things out."

Thankfully the charity appears to have a new home lined up, as it is preparing to make an offer to move into Norfolk House, opposite the council's Civic Offices.

One artist, who didn't wish to be named, said: "It's such a shame. We understand we can't stay here forever, especially if there is interest in the building from a company.

"But to give us notice over Christmas isn't cheerful."

A Threadneedle spokesman said: "We are working to ensure we reach the best result for all parties involved."



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MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

'We'll beat Google

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

MILTON Keynes is beating Google when it comes to changing the world!

On Wednesday last week the city was selected as one of two cities to be part of a £10million scheme launched by Vince Cable to trial driverless cars on the roads.

And excitingly, one day later the council revealed the first three driverless pods – smaller vehicles which can carry passengers on pedestrianised routes – would be seen in the city in March 2015, with a fleet of 40 to follow soon after.

The council's head of strategy Geoff Snelson outlined how the driverless pods project would work alongside the driverless car scheme.

While the pods are aimed for just two people, the driverless cars are full size vehicles that will be manufactured by Jaguar, Land Rover and Ford.

Vince Cable, with Steve Yianni, during a visit to the catapult

Mr Snelson said: "The first three of the pods will arrive in the city by the end of March. This will eventually expand to 40 as we look to have a system in place."

He also revealed that a city in China had already tried to place an order for 1,000 pods, despite them not even arriving on the streets of Milton Keynes yet.

Mr Snelson was joined by Cllr Pete Marland, leader of Milton Keynes Council, to explain more about both the pod and the driverless car schemes.

The city's Transport Catapult System will carry out the technical work, while the council will work on regulations and also examine the possibility of closing certain sections of the grid road system in the future to trial the driverless cars.

Cllr Marland said: "This is a project that will change the world. It's something that Google is attempting, but we are going to beat Google right here in Milton Keynes."

Steve Yianni, chief executive of the Transport Catapult System, said: "This is the future – using emerging technology to improve the movement of people and goods around the world.

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Podding along: The first three driverless pods will be seen in Milton Keynes in March next year

"With a global market estimated to be worth £900billion by 2025, it's a sector that is critical to creating jobs."

Mr Snelson said there were many advantages to the driverless cars that would benefit residents in Milton Keynes.

He said: "Driverless cars are of interest because there are safety advantages. They can be programmed to run a specific distance from another vehicle.

"There will be a lot of behind-the-scenes work, but we do want public viewing."

PODS AND CARS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

THE main difference is that the pods are for pedestrianised areas and the cars are for our roads.

The driverless pods are small vehicles which carry two passengers at 12mph on designated pathways.

People will be able to hail them by booking them on an app on their smartphone and they could cost as little as £2.

The driverless cars would be fully sized autonomous vehicles that would be tested on our grid roads.

The cars use sensors, cameras and radars to control their movements and the theory is that driverless cars will be able to pack together closer and in a safer manner – reducing congestion. It could also help spell an end to parking problems, as driverless cars could simply move onto their next customer.

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR INTEREST RATE TENFOLD

Did you know that there is 10 times as much money invested in bank accounts than is invested in shares? This is a staggering amount to have invested in cash especially when you consider how poor interest rates are these days.

We review clients' finances regularly. It never ceases to amaze me how many new clients have so much more invested in cash than in shares. Long standing clients of ours have long ago realised the benefits of investing their money in real assets like property and shares. That's why they are able to enjoy their retirement years so much.

Based on the clients I meet the average interest rate they are earning on cash is 1%-2%. By contrast our investment system Wealth Investment Strategy, WIS, has achieved average annual returns of 10.2% over the last 19 years and has outperformed the FTSE 100 Share Index by a comfortable margin of almost double its return of just 5.5% per annum! Bearing in mind that our system is a risk controlled one designed for medium risk investors and typically invests just 50% in shares, we are very proud of its track record.

Tony Byrne
Chartered and Certified Financial Planner
Author of Wealth Magic

We have recently launched another investment system known as Wealth Management Strategy, WMS, which has some similarities to WIS but crucially, based on backtesting, has produced slightly better returns for less charges. We think a lot of clients will like it.

So how do you increase your interest rate tenfold? Well it's quite easy really. You withdraw money from that bank account that is paying you a dismal interest rate of 1% and invest it into WMS which, based on past performance, is likely to give you returns of 10% a year. That's a tenfold increase!

As ever in the investment world there are some caveats. Be prepared to invest the money for a minimum of 5 years and preferably 10.

Keep enough money in reserve to meet any capital commitments over the next 5 years such as home improvements, new car purchase, holidays etc. Undertake a thorough investment risk assessment first. Get advice from a Chartered Financial Planner. You know it makes sense!

Tony Byrne
Financial Planning Director
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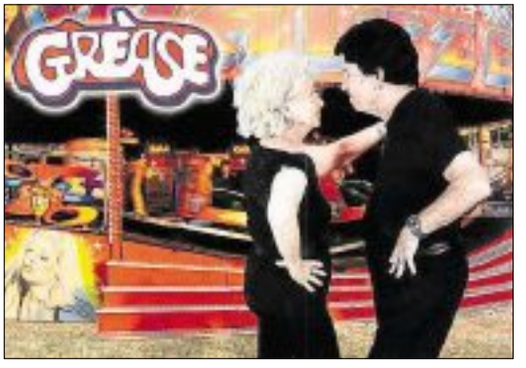
Silver screen stars

BY JACK ASH
editor@mk-news.co.uk

PENSIONERS from Shenley Wood Village care home became stars of the silver screen when they posed as movie icons for The Golden Age of Cinema calendar 2015.

Residents recreated classic scenes from films including Grease, Dirty Dancing and The Godfather to raise funds for the home. More than 1,000 of the £10 calendars have already been snapped up.



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Emily 'lived her life to the full'

Tragic: Emily Johnson died after lake swim

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

THE family of a 20-year-old who drowned in the Blue Lagoon say she 'lived life to the full'.

Emily Johnson, a waitress at Byron Hamburgers in Milton Keynes, had visited the Bletchley lake with her boyfriend and a group of friends on July 30. She found herself in difficulty while swimming and, despite the efforts of friends and onlookers who pulled her from the water, she later died of brain injuries at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford on August 1.

Emily was the second person in just a week to die after swimming in the lake – following the death of 61-year-old Paul Allsop on July 25.

Her mother Nicola Johnson and uncle Sean were present at the inquest into her death at Milton Keynes Coroners' Court in Crownhill on Friday.

Following the accidental death verdict, they remembered the 'caring and loving' daughter they sadly lost.

Nicola, 46, said: "She always helped other people, she was a people person. She loved life and she lived it to the full.

Forty-seven-year-old Sean, 47, added: "We want to thank the emergency services and police officers. We also want to thank PCSO Michael Billingham, who was first on the scene and was a young man forced into a very difficult situation – he needs a pat on the back."

Nicola added: "We want to thank everyone from the air ambulance. We raised £380 for them at the funeral and their work isn't noted enough."

If you would like to donate to the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance visit its website – http://tvacaa.org/

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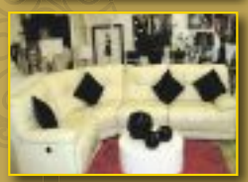
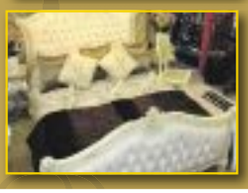

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Keeping you safe After 8: Revellers will be able to get help from the hut outside Xscape in December

Hut help for revellers

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

WITH the festive season on its way, the After 8 Safe Hut will make a return to Central Milton Keynes this month.

Located outside Xscape and now in its sixth year, the hut is run by Milton Keynes City Centre Management's After 8 group, in association with SaferMK, to ensure those visiting MK for a night out enjoy a safer experience.

From Saturday until December 31, volunteers and staff from St John Ambulance will be on hand to give medical help to revellers and essential items will be handed out to keep them safe.

In 2013, more than 500 people were seen by the Safe Hut, with 16 people tended to by St John Ambulance, saving about £2,500 for the NHS.

Two hundred bottles of water, 179 pairs of flip flops and 341 spikeys – a device to prevent drinks being spiked – were handed out by 24 volunteers who donated 155 hours of their time.

City centre manager Melanie Beck said: "As a business community, it is always important to work hard in positively promoting and keeping Central Milton Keynes safe.

"The time donated by our After 8 volunteers mean those enjoying their festive celebrations are a little safer thanks to the enormous amount of goodwill enabling the Safe Hut to run."

For more details and to stay up to date with the Safe Hut, which is being supported by MK NEWS and MKWeb, visit www.mkweb.co.uk/news or www.mkccm.co.uk

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FLASHBACKMK

Memories of MK

History: Volunteers for STACCess:MK set up the new exhibition

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS and staff of the STACCess:MK project are adding the final touches to their upcoming exhibition 'How Extraordinary the Ordinary: Exploring how everyday life has changed in Milton Keynes'.

The free exhibition explores everyday life in the area from 1900 up until the development of Milton Keynes as a new town in 1967.

The exhibition, which is at Sunset Walk in the centre:mk until January 31, is based on Living Archive Milton Keynes' Taylor-Brown Collection, which contains items kept by the Taylor and Brown families, who lived and worked in Wolverton and were united by marriage in 1939.

Many of the exhibition's items will be on display for the first time.

ON THE **WEB**

See a video of MK's xmas display in '07

Cliff Richards' Wired for Sound MK video

Queen gig at the Bowl

mkweb.co.uk/flashbackmk

Corporate Property Strategy 2014-19

We want your views

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations

Consultation is open until **23 February 2015**

This strategy sets out the Council's strategic objectives for its Corporate properties from 2014 to 2019.

To see the strategy and feedback, visit the website.

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TAYLORS
EXECUTIVE HOMES

Almost 800 homes set for east of city

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

PLANS to build 785 homes to the east of Milton Keynes have been given the green light.

Two separate planning applications for up to 400 dwellings at Wavendon Golf Centre and up to 385 properties on land west of Eagle Farm South, south of the A421, were approved by the development control committee at Milton Keynes Council on Thursday.

The Wavendon development, 30 per cent of which will be classified as 'affordable housing', will mean the nine-hole golf course and driving range will either be relocated within the existing 18-hole site, or developer Merton College will have to stump up £100,000 to Milton Keynes Council for the construction of a new one.

A sum of £150,000 will also have to be paid to replace the driving range.

Jacky Jeffreys, from Woburn Sands Town Council, objected to the proposal, expressing concerns about traffic and golf provision in the area.

But councillors on the development control committee unanimously granted planning permission for the development to go ahead.

Gallagher Estates will develop a 2.58-hectare site near Eagle Farm South to include children's play areas and allotments.

Churchill hoard has new venue

PICTURES, posters and books that belonged to Winston Churchill have found a new home in Milton Keynes.

The collection had previously been at Bletchley Park, but has found a new home at Challenge House in the town's Sherwood Drive as part of a new dedicated room in honour of the former Prime Minister.

The Churchill Room was officially opened by Minnie Churchill, wife of the former leader's grandson – also called Winston.

Opened: Minnie Churchill and the mayor Derek Eastman

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- Visit to the Swiss capital of Bern
- A cruise on Lake Thun

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- Welcome drink & a candlelit dinner
- Visit to the Nice Carnival Flower Parade
- Visit to the Menton Lemon Festival Moonlit Parade
- Free time in Diano Marina

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ABTA No.W0552

Yum, yum: Some of the boxes that have been dropped off

Sweet success for Christmas appeal

SELECTION boxes continue to be delivered to the MK NEWS offices to be given to children with cancer.

In support of the Henry Allen Trust the treats are being collected up until December 19. To get them delivered in time, 55 boxes have already been dropped off at CLIC Court in Oxford, where city children are looked after during treatment. To help beat last year's total of 300 drop boxes at our offices in Diamond Court, Fox Milne.

Vote for chosen charity of 2015

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

MK NEWS and MKWeb are looking for our charity of the year for 2015.

Last year more than 40 good causes were nominated with Milton Keynes Hospital's Leo's Appeal coming out on top.

Throughout 2014 we have supported the appeal in its aim to raise £200,000 to make a difference to the 36,000 youngsters treated in the hospital's children's ward each year.

We have met inspirational children like Jordan Asquith and Lucas Ormrond, who receive regular treatment on the ward.

Reporter Jessica Duncan also spent the day with play assistants Laura Clark and Lucy Sparks, the unsung heroes of the ward who spend extra time with patients doing various activities.

Schools and businesses have also shown their support for the charity with numerous fundraising events held throughout the year.

The appeal, which was set up in September 2013, is focused on the redevelopment of the ward and buying reclining chair beds for parents and toys for all patients.

But who will the charity be next year?

GO ONLINE TO NOMINATE A CHARITY
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TAYLORS
EXECUTIVE HOMES

Give me a brake: William Hewitt sent in this picture of a car that appears to have rolled out of its parking space – and into another vehicle

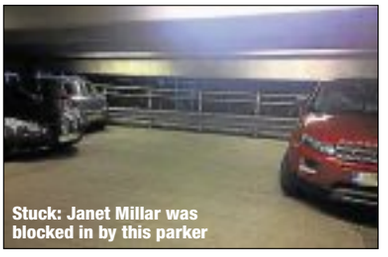
Great MK brake-off

THE MK NEWS parking police have been back on patrol to catch a number of offenders red-handed – and at least one who may be red-faced too.

It looks like the owner of the red mean machine pictured above managed to forget to apply the handbrake when they pulled up, causing a spot of bother.

There's no such excuse for this week's other miscreants, who are hogging more than one space.

If you want to join our quest to beat the bay bandits, it's easy – all you have to do is email your pictures to **editor@mk-news.co.uk** or tweet them to **@YourMKWeb** and we'll do the rest.



Stuck: Janet Millar was blocked in by this parker

Bay bandit: Ian Billington sent us this picture of bad parking

By Sam Potter

Advertising feature

Breakthrough relief for back pain and sciatica

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the UK with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

In Bedfordshire, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Atlas Wellness Centre – the office of low back pain and sciatica relief expert Peter Olsson.

Peter and his team of fully trained spinal care specialists have helped over 3,000 patients find relief from their agonising back pain and sciatica.

According to Peter, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in Bedfordshire, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique programme for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Jeff P. from Cambridge says, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg.

I couldn't work or do anything useful and the drugs my GP prescribed hardly did anything.

My wife insisted I respond to one of these ads, I thought it would be a total waste of time, but I'm so glad she kept on at me.

Thank god I called your number, I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

The spine therapy specialists at Atlas Wellness Centre, are opening more slots in their already busy schedule to help MK News readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call 01234 340317.

Mention this article (CODE: MKN37SCID5) and Peter will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of £195 to just £37. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Peter and his team now by calling 01234 340317, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just £37, the normal cost of such an exam is £195 so you will save £158!

Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now on 01234 340317 and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don't delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message.

For obvious reasons they can't help everyone at this reduced price, so please call soon to secure your special opportunity.

Call 01234 340317 NOW and leave a message if it's the weekend or the line is busy - they promise they will get back to you as soon as they can. So call now on 01234 340317 and quote this special discount code: MKN37SCID5

Sciatica Relief Expert Peter Olsson, says: In 9 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain

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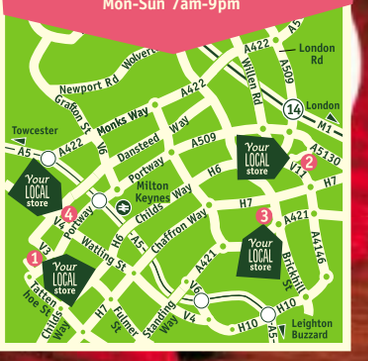

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Our small A&E gets 'dirty more quickly'

BY JAMES AVERILL
james.averill@mk-news.co.uk

ACCIDENT and emergency is getting dirtier quicker due to the amount of people passing through – according to chief executive Joe Harrison.

Mr Harrison made his comments to MK NEWS following the release of a report by the Care Quality Commission that the A&E was performing 'worse than expected' – and had been named in the worst 10 in the country for performing below expectations.

The report – a survey of patients on their experience at the hospital – also highlighted the hospital's cleanliness as being of particular concern.

But Mr Harrison told this newspaper: "We are obviously disappointed that we have come out as we have done.

"Patients aren't getting everything that they want and it's very clear that we need to continue with the improvements.

"But if we try and fit 75,000 people into a department built for 17,000, you're going to get an awful lot more bumps and scrapes. If we fill the space with more people than it's used to it's going to get dirty more quickly."

Bumps and scrapes: Joe Harrison believes the size of the A&E department is contributing to it becoming more dirty quickly

Mr Harrison said that the hospital had replaced flooring, lighting and increased the frequency of cleaning to try and combat the problem.

Healthwatch MK, the city's consumer champion for healthcare, said the overall results of the survey 'were of concern', but added: "We accept that the A&E facilities have not kept pace with the dynamic growth of Milton Keynes and its changing demography, which impacts on the hospital."

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Our price includes
- Return coach travel
- Three nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl
- Entrance to Portmeirion
- Single journeys on the Conwy Valley and Ffestiniog Railways
- The services of a tour manager

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Discover a rolling land of vineyards and olive groves, and marvel at Rome's timeless glories and Firenze's Renaissance splendours.

Our price includes
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- Comfortable coach travel and transfers
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

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Our price includes
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- The services of a tour manager

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HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS YET?

MILTON KEYNES THEATRE

5 DEC - 11 JAN

Help mark #PantoDay with cast of Peter Pan!

IT'S Panto Day on Friday! Oh yes it is!

You'd be forgiven for thinking that every day is full to the brim with pantomime magic at Milton Keynes Theatre during the festive period, but did you know that Friday is officially #PantoDay?

Up and down the country, our panto heroes and heroines, dames and divas, will be tweeting up a storm revealing backstage gossip, pictures and stories to celebrate the UK's most beloved family theatre event and we want you to get involved!

Last year's celebrations saw more than two million Twitter users use the #PantoDay and over 150 theatres got involved, with even more due to take part this year. And MK Theatre wants you to help get #PantoDay trending worldwide!

Ever wondered what Bradley Walsh loves about panto? How do Flawless warm up before the show? Well, the theatre will be tweeting exclusive snippets from the cast of this year's show, Peter Pan, and you can help celebrate by tweeting @MKTheatre with why you love the great British tradition of pantomime!

Tweet your favourite panto stories, pictures, or even your best jokes, everything and everything panto-tastic is welcome, just make sure you include #PantoDay in all your tweets on Friday!

Visit our website for all the latest panto news mkweb.co.uk/theatre

Ready to fly high

SWASHBUCKLING Peter Pan opened on Friday at Milton Keynes Theatre with an all-star cast including MK Panto fave Bradley Walsh, Britain's Got Talent street dance sensation Flawless as hip-hopping pirates and the most boo-able baddy Olivier Award-winner David Bedella.

Audiences are already hailing the laugh-a-minute panto a huge success and you can read our five-star review on the next page.

@BickleGraeme tweeted: "@flawlessUK @MKTheatre best panto I've seen", while @colinpaterson78 said: "I could watch @BradleyWalsh all day. Brilliant at @MKTheatre cried laughing with my five-year-old"

■ For more pictures from the panto visit **www.mkweb.co.uk/theatre**

Who has a dressing room like this?

MILTON Keynes Theatre's cheeky little backstage fairy has been sneaking around backstage Peter Pan to bring MK NEWS readers an exclusive opportunity to win a family ticket for four people to see the panto and have the chance to meet the all-star cast.

All you need to do is tell us which character's dressing room you think the picture on the left belongs to.

To enter log on to mkweb.co.uk/competitions.

Alternatively, send your answer, name and daytime telephone number to Peter Pan Competition, MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU by noon on Wednesday, December 17.

Peter Pan is on until January 11. Tickets cost £12 to £39.50 from www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes

MILTON KEYNES THEATRE

FRI 5 DEC - SUN 11 JAN

0844 871 7652 (bkg fee)

www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes (bkg fee)

MKlife

your guide to leisure in your city

online
read judy riley's full review online
mkweb.co.uk

Get ready for an awfully big adventure at MK Theatre

IF FOR some bizarre reason, Christmas has so far passed you by unnoticed, I can tell you where it's hanging out.

All of the fun, the sparkle and the magic of the season, having been packaged up prettily, has now exploded on stage at MK Theatre in this year's production of Peter Pan.

J M Barrie's story of the boy who never grows up is not a pantomime in the traditional sense. There are no princesses, Shetland ponies or gruesomely made-up blokes wearing outrageously hideous frocks; thank goodness.

There is, however, the very stuff of childhood. It is a world of make-believe; of pirates and redskins, wild animals, mermaids and fairies and, more than anything, of adventures in a faraway place.

In Eric Potts' adaptation, while some of the mystery of Barrie's vision has flown out of the window (along with Peter and Wendy?), the humour and spectacle of director Cal McCrystal's show more than makes up for it.

From the moment the curtain goes up the stage glitters like a Christmas tree, the music causes your heart to lift and the action bursts into life with some of the most jaw-dropping dance routines you'll ever see.

The scene-setting intro, in the Darling household nursery, is more often than not a trial you have to get through before the fun really begins.

Not any more. With Bradley Walsh as some kind of grumpy old Nanny McPhee-alike, left to settle the kids down for the night while the parents go out on the town, the jokes and silliness come thick and fast right away.

When Peter swoops down on the unsuspecting children, in a flying sequence that is better than any I've seen before, you know you're in for a very special experience. And a certain amount of 'Pan'demonium too, of course!

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fantasyfilm

THE last of the Hobbit films comes out next week, so I revisited the second in the trilogy – the Desolation of Smaug – and I think it's a brilliant watch, writes Scott Kirk.

I actually prefer the films to the books and I thought the same about The Lord of the Rings.

Peter Jackson's interpretation of the books is just genius and it's a brilliant form of escapism.

I think the first Hobbit film was better than the second, but the Desolation of Smaug is still better than most movies out there.

The casting is absolutely spot on, the acting is perfect and Martin Freeman as Bilbo is a real masterstroke.

A lot of people have criticised why one small book has been turned into three films, but I can't get enough of them.

They're perfect for every generation and I'd love to see Peter Jackson take a look at other JRR Tolkien books based on Middle-Earth and see what magic he can do with them as well.

MILLS & BOON

goodread

WE'RE coming into the festive season and what's better than getting cosy on the sofa with a good book?

This Christmas, look no further than rom-com queen Fiona Harper's sparkling new story – The Little Shop of Hopes and Dreams.

Nicole Harrison, a born organiser and true romantic, has created her dream job running the Hopes and Dreams proposal agency – staging YouTube-worthy marriage proposals.

Now she's planning the proposal of the century to her perfect man. The only hitch? She's not the bride.

Fans of Jenny Colgan and Abby Clement will love this fun, fresh story.

So, whether you're looking for the perfect stocking-filler, or a fab treat for yourself, pick up a copy of The Little Shop of Hopes and Dreams.

Get your copy at WHSmith on the high street.

We're giving away a book hamper to two lucky MK LIFE readers, which will include Hopes and Dreams and a number of other great reads.

For your chance to win a Mills & Boon Christmas Book Hamper, answer the following question:

What type of business is Hope and Dreams?

A) A supermarket
B) A proposal agency
C) A garden centre
D) A dentists

To enter visit mkweb.co.uk/competitions. Alternatively, send your answer, name and daytime telephone number to MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU by December 17. The editor's decision is final

celebratingsteeltown

SCOTTISH rock band Big Country scored their biggest commercial success 30 years ago.

Their second album Steeltown – which was recorded at ABBA's Polar Studios in Stockholm – entered the UK album charts straight in the top spot.

Their 2014 tour celebrates that 1984 record by playing the hit singles such as Fields of Fire and In A Big Country.

Big Country: Celebrating Steeltown will take place at The Stables in Wavendon at 8pm on Monday.

Tickets cost from £22.50 at www.stables.org or the venue's box office on 01908 280800.

carolconcert

ENJOY some festive cheer at the Danesborough Chorus Christmas Concert on Saturday.

They will be singing a selection of carols old and new and there will be Christmas readings and seasonal refreshments at St Mary's Church in Woburn. The choir will be accompanied by John Witchell on piano and organ.

Ticket to the show, at 7.30pm, cost from £8-£10 for adults and £3 for children. Call 01525 376760.

classictale

FOLLOW the adventures of Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger in the dramatisation by John Morely of Kenneth Grahame's children's classic Wind in the Willows.

The show, by community theatre group Tread the Boards, will be at the Chrysalis Theatre, Willen Park South, on Friday at 7pm and Saturday at 2pm and 6pm.

Director Vikki Morton said: "I chose to do Wind in the Willows because I love the story, sentiment and setting. There will be plenty of opportunities for 'he's behind you' and what would a Christmas show be without that?"

Tickets cost £9 for adults and £7 for concessions. Find out how to book yours at **www.mkweb.co.uk**.

lovestory

SHAKESPEARE'S tragic tale of star-crossed young lovers Romeo and Juliet comes to the Stantonbury Theatre.

Rosemary Hill, Pepper's Ghost Theatre Company director, has chosen to move away from Italy and locate the Shakespeare classic in Japan.

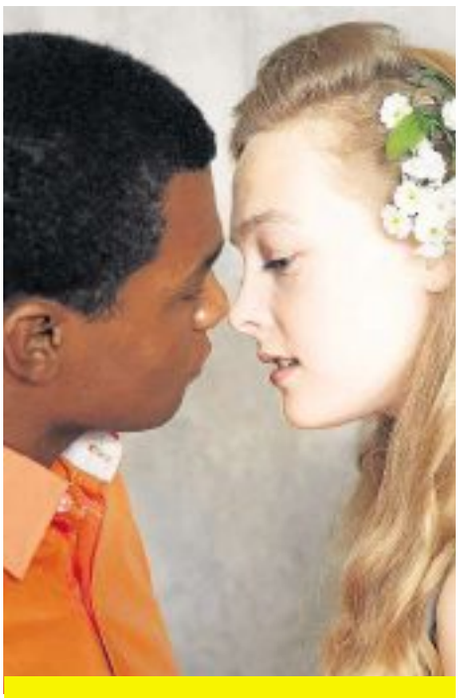
The play centres on the impact of family hatred and cruel destiny and highlights the universal themes of love and hate, youth and age, passion and responsibility.

Set in Japan in no particular era, it illuminates a society governed by order, rituals, rules and a powerful hierarchy, but there is an undercurrent. Japan is also situated on a volcanic fault line.

This parallels Verona, a place also with its rules and regulations and a strict social code. There is the feeling in Verona that trouble is often brewing and could be so easily triggered.

Peppers Ghost designer Kevin Jenkins has stunning set and costume designs, which perfectly encapsulate the original vision.

Romeo and Juliet will be performed tonight until Saturday at 7.30pm. There will also be a Saturday matinee 2.30pm. To book tickets, costing from £13-£15, call the box office on 01908 324466.



OUR resident pet expert AMY CONVERSE writes her monthly column for MK LIFE. In this winter edition, she outlines the dangers of antifreeze to our pets

NOW that the weather is colder, many of us will be looking to use antifreeze on our vehicles.

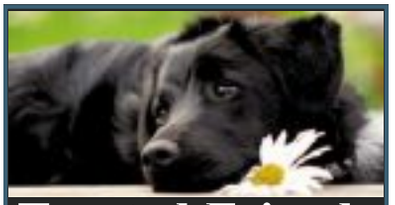
Did you know that most antifreeze brands have an inviting aroma and a sweet flavour that tempts animals to drink the highly poisonous substance? Even a couple of licks can be fatal to pets.

It should be kept it away from animals and owners should look out for the early symptoms of antifreeze poisoning.

Help protect your pet from poisoning by closely watching them in areas where antifreeze may be accessible, such as roads, driveways, or garages.

The first few hours of exposure are critical. Immediate veterinary care can help an animal recover successfully, but the longer they remain untreated, the less likely they are to survive.

Typical symptoms are lethargy, disorientation, uncoordination and grogginess that appear up to one hour after ingestion and can last for several hours. Further symptoms include vomiting, oral and gastric ulcers, kidney failure, coma and death.



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December

Sat 13 Dec
DISCOVER: CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING
Adult education course. Booking essential. Park in the car park off H7 Chaffron Way opposite the Westcroft Centre. **Howe Park Wood Education Centre 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm £10/person**
SOLD OUT

Sat 20 Dec
PARAFFINALIA
Celebrate the darkest days with Festive Road's Midwinter Fire Festival. Limited public parking on the events plateau or park at CMK Shopping Centre.
Campbell Park 7pm - 9m Free

Sun 21 Dec
CAROLS IN THE WOOD
Join us for our annual carolling afternoon. Bring a lantern and wrap up warm. Park in the car park on H7 Chaffron Way opposite the Westcroft Centre.
Howe Park Wood 3.30pm Free

January 2015

Thu 1 Jan
RSPB WALK
New Year's Day walk with local birding experts. Meet in the car park on V11, Tongwell Street, just north of the Pineham roundabout.
Willen Lake North 10am Free

For your **FREE** events guide for 2015 register on our website
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Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 December, 8pm CLEO'S CHRISTMAS SHOW
Cleo Laine and friends present their annual festive celebration
Tickets £29.50, £32

Monday 15 December, 8pm BIG COUNTRY
Scottish rock band celebrate their multi-million selling album Steeltown
Tickets £22.50, £25

Tuesday 16 – Sunday 21 December THE LITTLE RED HEN
Delightful theatre adaptation of classic story-book favourite for ages 3-7
Tickets £12, under-16s £10

Tuesday 16 December, 8pm RICHARD DURRANT
Leading guitarist presents a candlelit Christmas concert
Tickets £15

Wednesday 17 December, 8pm PATTI BOULAYE
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comedycapers

GET ready to have a laugh when Katherine Ryan performs at That Time of Month Comedy Club.

The writer-performer has appeared as a guest on numerous shows, including Live at the Apollo, 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Never Mind the Buzzcocks and she is due to appear on Q.I. later in the year.

She also made two appearances on Jack Dee's Sky Atlantic panel show Don't Sit in the Front Row and appeared on BBC2's Mock the Week Series 11.

Katherine is also a talented actress and played the lead role of George in Victoria Pile's Channel 4 series Campus. Katherine also appeared regularly throughout the second series of Episodes as Merc's Assistant.

The gig on December 21 will take place at The Cannon in High Street, Newport Pagnell, from 7pm.

To book tickets, which cost £8.80, go to www.wegottickets.com/

filmreview

IN Horrible Bosses 2 the hapless trio turn to a scheme of kidnap to get rid of a ruthless businessman.

Nick, Kurt and Dale have gone into business together and come up with the 'Shower Buddy', which catches the eye of business mogul Bert Hanson.

But the trio are soon cheated out of their cash and hatch a desperate plan to kidnap Hanson's son for ransom to save their business.

While the 2011 film was a hit with big talent, a clever plot and raunchy humour the sequel fails to deliver on all accounts. This is a dull satire with an absurd and barely strung together plot occasionally punctuated with tired and lazy attempts at humour.

Jennifer Aniston returns as Julia Harris, whose outrageous behaviour certainly earns a laugh, and Kevin Spacey is back as Harken, but neither character has anything to do with the story.

Bateman, Day and Sudeikis fail to land any comedy punches and their varying degrees of idiocy lack any comedic chemistry.

It may ignite a few laughs but the cast struggles to warrant the absurd plot lacking any 'horrible bosses'.

After the success of the original there are many reasons, stretched out over 108 minutes, not to make such a weak sequel. Unfortunately the film falls victim to that old cliché: it's just not as good (or as funny) as the original.

★☆☆☆☆

Rachael West

gallerybirthday

MK GALLERY opened to the public in 1999, so 2014 has marked 15 years of creating exceptional art exhibitions and events.

To celebrate, the gallery is asking all of its supporters to donate to its 15 for 15 campaign.

Any donations will support its expansion, which aims to deliver a superb cultural facility by 2017.

You can donate your £15 by going to www.localgiving.com/mkgallery

Your essential guide to events big and small throughout Milton Keynes

MK life HOT PICKS

chamberchoir

JOIN the Sherwood Choral Society chamber choir for The Christmas Story in word, song and music.

The concert, on Saturday at 7.45pm, will take place at the Freeman Memorial Methodist Church in Bletchley. Tickets cost £6 for adults, £5 for concessions and £1 for children.

Contact Paul and Jan Taylor on 01908 372138 for more details.

reindeerhunt

MEET Santa and his animal friends at HULA Animal Rescue's Christmas Get-together.

See a dog parade, sing carols, help Santa find his missing reindeer and more on Sunday from 1-3.30pm.

Refreshments are available and tickets are £2 for adults but children go free.

All money raised goes towards the welfare of the rescue animals at the sanctuary at Glebe Farm in Aspley Guise.

abbeyangels

MEET the angels at Abbey Xmas Fair at Bradwell Abbey.

There will be a Santa's grotto, children's activities, 20 to 30 stalls and music from groups and choirs.

For more information email Jean Baldock at jeanettebaldock@sky.com.

got an exciting event? **email editor@mk-news.co.uk**

all the latest leisure news **www.mk-news.co.uk**

livemusic

ENJOY new live music nights at B-Town.

The events are free to attend at the Indian street food restaurant in Grafton Gate every Saturday and feature a plethora of talent from 9.30pm.

Acts will include cover artist Iain Sparkes, 60s singer Kim Sellick and Motown act Freddy B, **pictured left**.

The events will also allow customers to sample the 20 cocktails on the 2-4-1 menu. Read more at **mkweb.co.uk**.

marshallamps

MILTON Keynes' Marshall Amplification main dealers, Rock Hard Music, will be hosting a free demonstration evening tomorrow in its Old Wolverton store featuring a rare opportunity to see demo's by Chris George.

The free entry event starts at 7pm and as well as a live performance there will be a raffle and 'one night only' offers.

Chris is well known for his musical skills and West End performances. The event is suitable for all ages.

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Ousedale intends to change its admissions criteria for September 2016 entry. The consultation document can be found on the school website under 'About' then 'Admissions'.
(http://www.ousedale.org.uk/about-ousedale/admissions/consultation-on-admissions-arrangements-for-september-2016)
Comments should be sent to Ousedale FAO Mr Andy Burton. The consultation runs until 28th February 2015.
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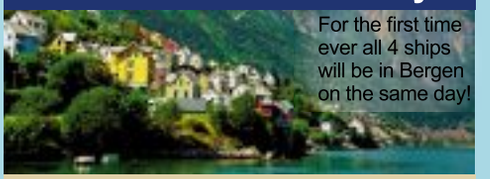

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MKNEWS

PROPERTYNEWS

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Downhead Park

THIS is a uniquely designed property that has been improved and extended to a very high standard.

It offers versatile, spacious family living within a short walking distance to the canal, of Willen Lake, the city centre and Central Milton Keynes train station.

In brief the property comprises entrance hall, lounge, family room/study, extended and refitted kitchen/breakfast/family area with vaulted ceiling and bi-fold doors opening onto the rear garden, utility room and a downstairs cloakroom.

On the first floor landing the master bedroom has a beautifully refitted and extended en-suite, a full dressing room and a balcony.

There are also two further bedrooms with access to the balcony and a further double bedroom.

The family bathroom has been extended and refitted to a very high specification.

The private rear garden is fully enclosed, tranquil and designed to be low maintenance. There is off-road parking in front of the garage.

Viewing of this property, on the market for £550,000, is highly recommended. For more information, call Taylors Executive Homes on 01908 850964.

Do you know what your property is worth?

Wouldn't you like to know EXACTLY how much your property is worth?

Call us now for your FREE no obligation valuation on 01908 303664

RHYEN JORDAN

ESTATE AGENTS

Gloucester House 399 Silbury Blvd Milton Keynes MK9 2AH

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General Vacancies

FLARE PRODUCTS LTD

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION CO-ORDINATOR

As part of our expansion plans we have the above position available.

Duties will include:

- General administration
- Improving Company procedures
- Customer Qualification Forms
- Moving the Business towards Achilles, IS9001 and other standards required
- Procurement and all office associated duties to meet tight deadlines

Would suit someone who is ambitious, can work in a small team, sometimes under pressure.

This is a permanent full time position of approximately 25 hours per week

Salary will be dependent upon the successful candidate's ability and will be competitive.

Applications and CV by email to the Contracts Director stuart@flareproducts.co.uk

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Central Bedfordshire Council

WE HAVE A RANGE OF ROLES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY TEAM.

Central Bedfordshire

Various salaries in the range of £19,817 - £33,317.

For further information, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs

Closing Date: 4th January 2015.

Positive about disabled people

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to equal opportunities.

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WORKSHOP ASSISTANT TO START IMMEDIATELY

We are a successful Small Engineering Company. We are looking for a well motivated person to help our skilled people work as efficiently as possible. Therefore keep the work shop clean and tidy, provide material for the machinist and prepare items for dispatch. If you can drive, possibly deliver and collect items. The candidate will also assist in store keeping.

No qualifications are required, training will be given but efficiency and attention to detail are essential skills. We need someone who is flexible and hard working, who likes variety and is able to think for themselves.

This post would start on a temporary contract but we hope it would become permanent. The starting hourly rate is **£7.75**. Shift work may be required.

NO AGENCIES

Please send your CV to **mary@dowdingprecision.com**
Or Post to:- Dowding Precision CNC Ltd, Unit G, Lyon Rd, Denbigh West, Bletchley MK1 1 EX

TBA

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www.jobsnow.co.uk

OPPORTUNITIES AT A BUSY AND FRIENDLY GP SURGERY

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT

13 hours - 3 mornings and 1 afternoon

Working with the support of a Practice Nurse you will be responsible for the full range of HCA duties. You must be fully trained and will work at both our sites in Barton and Gooseberry Hill Health Centre, Luton.

RECEPTIONIST

30 hours - 3 mornings and 3 afternoons

Previous experience an advantage but not essential. A sense of humour and the ability to work as part of a team are key attributes.

Application forms and further details for both posts are available from
Mrs Katie Dearman, Reception Manager, The Surgery, Hexton Road, Barton-Le-Clay, Beds MK45 4TA.
01582 528700.
Katie.dearman@nhs.net

Closing date for return of completed forms
Monday 15 December 2014

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Night Transport Supervisor

mortimers

Attractive salary package
Dunstable, Beds.

Part of the Mediaforce Group, Mortimers Logistics is an established transport business with a large fleet of HGVs and other vehicles. We are a market leader in the bulk distribution of newspapers and leaflets throughout the UK. Due to continued business growth we are now seeking a Night Transport Supervisor to join the team based at our busy depot in Dunstable.

We are seeking someone with experience of working in a busy transport department. Flexible, with a can do attitude, you will be capable of thinking on your feet and demonstrate the ability to resolve issues effectively, both proactively and reactively.

As a key figure within the leadership team, your responsibilities will include tracking all night vehicles and drivers, while keeping control of the transport plan as necessary, and dealing with any issues. You will keep up to date with driver data, infringement analysis, and keep check on other compliance such as driver and vehicle records. You will also conduct vehicle inspections before and after routes, and provide clear pre-brief and de-brief communication to drivers.

You will have the commitment to cover any vehicle routes if necessary and support and keep check on our warehouse, if required.

This role is working nights during the week and would be flexible as the needs of the business dictate. Applicants must have a LGV licence and FLT experience would be beneficial.

To apply, please send your CV to Bill Smith at bsmith@mortimers.co.uk stating your current salary.

THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP TRACK 250 2013 Grant Thornton

SURREY STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cutenhoe Community Learning Park, Cutenhoe Road, Luton, LU1 3NJ

PA to Headteacher

£18,631 - £20,963 p.a. **Vacancy ID: 102232**
37 hours per week, term-time plus 5 training days

We are looking for a **PA to the Headteacher** who will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

You will need to:

- have excellent communication skills to liaise with staff, parents, pupils and other professionals, remaining calm under pressure
- be highly organised to manage a challenging and varied workload and use your judgement and initiative
- have excellent IT skills to work effectively and efficiently
- be a team player as a valued part of the Surrey Street Family.

Attendance & Admissions Officer

£7,902 - £8,748 p.a. **Vacancy ID: 102233**
20 hours per week (08:45 – 12:45), term time plus 5 training days

We also need a part time Admissions and Attendance Officer to promote excellent attendance in school and manage the administration of our highly mobile population.

You will need to:

- have excellent communication skills to liaise with a range of people
- manage an often changeable and demanding workload to achieve all deadlines and understand why full attendance is vital
- have excellent IT skills including knowledge of SIMs
- be a team player to contribute to the smooth running of the office.

Visits to school are encouraged. Please call the school office for available visiting dates (week of Monday 15th December and week of Tuesday 6th January) – 01582 748810

Application forms can be downloaded from www.surreystreetprimary.com and once completed can be emailed to admin@surreystreetprimary.net

Closing date is Friday 9 January at 9.30am.

Interviews week beginning Monday 12 January. Please note that References will be taken up before interview.

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.
Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Practice Accountant Required

We are seeking an experienced, hands on Accountant to cover primarily Accounts Preparation, VAT Returns etc. Knowledge of tax and audit would also be an advantage for our SME clients.

Whether qualified, part qualified or experienced please contact us with a CV either by email to email@garnerassociates.co.uk or by letter to Northwood House, 138 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2QW.

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For an application form please telephone:
Mr A Neighbour • Telephone: 01234 790822

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WESTFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL & SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE in partnership with ST JOSEPH'S LOWER SCHOOL

Chester Road, Bedford MK40 4HW
Tel: 01234 267353 Fax: 01234 347907
Email: office@westfieldschool.net

Westfield Middle School (an expanding International School and Specialist Sports College) and St Joseph's Lower School (a Catholic school serving a wide faith community) serve the area of Queen's Park and beyond. Our schools are filled with diverse and vibrant staff and pupils' and we love to celebrate this.

SITE AGENT

37 hours per week (full time) 52 weeks per year
Salary Level 4A Pts 21 -24 £19,742 - £21,530 pa

We are seeking to appoint a proactive and skilled Site Agent to maintain and improve our school buildings. You will need to be a good team member, be able to manage others and be able to use your initiative, all are essential for this position. Facilities management experience and a willingness to take an active part in school life are essential. A school bungalow is available on the Westfield site.

Visits to the schools are recommended.

Closing date for applications is: Friday 12th December 2014, 12 noon

Interview date: Thursday 18th December 2014

For further details and an application pack please contact Mrs Deborah Farr
Tel: 01234 267353. Email: dfarr@westfieldschool.net or office@westfieldschool.net

CV's will not be accepted. The schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Both schools expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to enhanced DBS clearance.

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SMITH recycling

Based in Milton Keynes, **SMITH RECYCLING (MK) LTD** operate a highly successful Waste Recycling Facility providing a fast, affordable skip hire and grab lorry service to domestic and trade customers covering Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas.

Due to our continued expansion, we now require a

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

to join the team and contribute towards our growth in a fast-paced industry.

You will be expected to generate business conducting out- going calls; convert incoming calls into orders; develop existing and initiate new business markets; maintain the customer database; and conduct planned marketing campaigns and promotions utilising various forms of social media to create further sales.

Sales-orientated, the successful candidate must be numerate, articulate and computer literate; demonstrate a confident telephone manner with a minimum of 12 months experience in a similar market. The ability to negotiate and build strong working relationships addressing client needs is an essential attribute to ensure continuity of customer sales and retention.

This position will be mainly office based but site visits may be required. Applicants should have a full, clean driving licence. References will be requested. Interested? In the first instance, email your CV to paul@smithrecyclingmk.co.uk and tell us why you are the right person to develop this exciting new role.

Closing date: 23th December 2014

Smith Recycling (MK) Ltd is an equal opportunity employer

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Harrisons of Biggleswade require

additional staff to join our successful team of installers and engineers: -

Qualified Electrician, preferably C&G 2391
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Security Systems Engineers
Qualified carpenters and multiskilled operatives
Building estimator

All vacancies require suitable qualifications and experience.
A clear criminal record check is compulsory.
Send CV and salary expectations to
info@harrisons.pro
We are an equal opportunities employer. ©LW

Domestic Cleans Required

Merry Maids is looking for **reliable** staff to work between the hours of 9.15am-4.00pm. Must have own vehicle and driving licence.

Telephone: 01908 262640 ©LW

Souls Coaches are looking for an Experienced PSV Fitter

with a current PSV licence for our busy workshop in Olney. Please contact Operations Manager **01234 711242** to arrange an interview ©LW

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Luton on Sunday, Bedfordshire on Sunday, MK News & Northampton Herald & Post

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We Offer:

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If you feel you are suited to this position and are interested in applying, then please request an application form by emailing louisa.kugeniek@localworld.co.uk

We encourage applications from all walks of life and all applications will be considered on merit. It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union membership.

BEDFORDSHIRE onsunday MKNEWS LUTON onsunday Herald &Post

As a division of Local World we also publish weekly newspapers and websites across Herts, Beds, Bucks, Cambs, Northants, Staffs and Essex.

LOCAL WORLD

Driving Opportunities in Dunstable

mortimers

Part of the successful Mediaforce Group, Mortimers Logistics is an established transport company based in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Due to continued expansion we currently have full time and casual Driver opportunities.

Class 1 Casual

Class 2 Casual and Full Time

7.5 Ton Casual and Full Time

Newly qualified Drivers will be considered and there will be lots of opportunities to work extra hours.

For an application form or to submit your CV please email Steve Adams: sadams@mortimers.co.uk

THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP TRACK 250 2013 Grant Thornton

Bedford Borough Council

Bedford Borough Council takes great care to recruit the very best people so that the services we provide to our community are first class. We believe that the best work gets done in an environment that's enjoyable and which values, supports and encourages the development of its employees. In return we expect our employees to work hard and be committed to help us achieve our vision and share our values.

Children and Adult Social Care

Community Nurses (Learning Disability)

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Full and part-time positions available

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Closing date: 22nd December 2014

Posts working with children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

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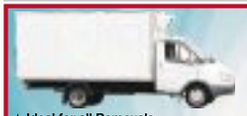

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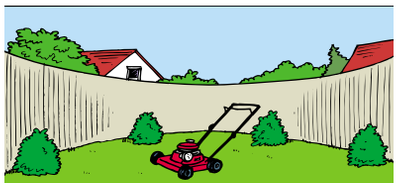

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Public Notices

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(TOWPATH (PART), PEARTREE BRIDGE)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has on 9th December 2014 made an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit access along that part of the towpath in Peartree Bridge from its junction with Pear Tree Lane to its junction Bridge 87 in order to allow essential repair works to be carried out to Bridge 87. It is anticipated that the temporary closure will be in effect from 17th December 2014 for a period of 12 months.

Whilst the above length of towpath is closed, the alternative route will be via Pear Tree Lane and Waterside, Peartree Bridge, and vice versa.

There will be no exemptions from the provisions of the Order except for the emergency services.

The closure will be clearly signed in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

The temporary closure will be in force on the date shown when indicated by the appropriate signs displayed on the affected part of towpath and footways.

The Order will come into operation on 17th December 2014 and will continue in force for a maximum period of 6 months or until the said works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. If the works are not completed within the maximum period stated, a further order may be made.

Any person committing a breach of the order will be liable upon prosecution to such fine as is prescribed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

10 December 2014

Synergy Park,
Chesney Wold
Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes

Rachael Kingsley
Head of Highways

Milton Keynes Council

The following applications may be inspected at the Planning, Economy and Development Department, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes. Representations, if any, to be submitted in writing to the above address within 21 days of the publication of this notice.

SECTION 73	**WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA**
14/02432/FUL	Conversion of garage to single dwelling at Mews Cottage, 75A High Street, Stony Stratford
14/02433/LBC	Listed Building consent for conversion of garage to single dwelling at Mews Cottage, 75A High Street, Stony Stratford
14/02513/FUL	Conversion of garage to kitchen installation (retrospective) at Stone Court Cottage, West Lane, Emberton
14/02521/FUL	Installation of 11 solar panels, 6 panels to the front elevation facing main road and 5 panels to the rear elevation at 14 The Leys, Woburn Sands
14/02554/FUL	Replacement ATM machine at HSBC Bank, 53 High Street, Newport Pagnell
14/02560/MMAM	Minor material amendment to planning permission 12/01169/FUL for changes to approved plans to replace glazed roof with slate roof of existing conservatory at 75A High Street, Stony Stratford
14/02567/TCA	Notification of intention to 30% crown reduce 1x Ash tree (T1), 1x Silver Birch tree (T2), 1x Victoria Plum (T3), 1x Greengage tree (T4) and 1x Worcester tree (T6) and fell 1x Cox tree (T5) at 2 Milton Road, Willen
14/02571/FUL	Installation of mechanical plant and steelwork on flat roof enclosed by timber fencing, installation of safety handrail around roof perimeter and colour change to shop front at 62 High Street, Newport Pagnell
14/02586/FUL	Change of use of former garden to parking at rear of No. 59 High Street at Doyles, 59 High Street, Woburn Sands
14/02598/FUL	Replacement of existing windows and doors at Grange Farm, High Street, Weston Underwood
14/02622/FUL	Conversion of semi-detached terrace house into two flats (retrospective) at 30 Radcliffe Street, Wolverton
14/02653/TCA	Notification of intention to crown raise to 3m/4.5m and crown reduce by 1.5m/2m 6x London plane trees at The Agora Centre, Church Street, Wolverton
14/02656/TPO	Tree preservation order consent to reduce the height and crown of one Cypress tree at 5 Hawkins Close, Stony Stratford
14/02697/ADV	Advert consent to display 1x projecting sign to be attached to existing signpost to direct to Fountain Court at 20 High Street, Olney
SECTION 67 & 73	**LISTED BUILDING WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA**
14/02502/FUL	Conversion of bakery, coffee shop and ancillary offices into 3 residential dwellings (C3) and 1 retail unit (A2) (retrospective) at 41-43 Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell
14/02503/LBC	Listed building consent for conversion of bakery, coffee shop and ancillary offices into 3 residential dwellings (C3) and 1 retail unit (A2) (retrospective) at 41-43 Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell
14/02511/FUL	Removal of three windows and installation of French doors and replacement of existing window (retrospective) at The Old George, 41 High Street, Stony Stratford
14/02512/LBC	Listed building consent for removal of three windows and installation of French doors and replacement of existing window (retrospective) at The Old George, 41 High Street, Stony Stratford
SECTION 67	**LISTED BUILDING**
14/02621/LBC	Listed building consent for full external and internal refurbishment; including decorations to painted elements, new LED lighting externally and internally to existing positions; proposed removal of small modern free standing canopy to side of patio and proposed new joinery double doors to main entrance within existing opening. Internally; new flooring, new oak shelves and mantle shelves, new small joinery screens, some modern screens and displays to be removed; partial new bar servery and new bar backfitting; new simple traditional plastered fireplace with oak mantle shelf; new walk in refrigerator unit and walk in freezer in existing kitchen with external condensers in rear yard area. Garden and car park works to include maintenance pruning to small tree on patio and some new low growing planting to borders and proposed removal of very large Leylandii on car park boundary at The Talbot Inn, 33 London Road, Loughton
14/02623/FUL	Relocate entrance door, internal alterations, replace windows, external doors and insert rooflights at 20 Cowdray Close, Woolstone
14/02625/LBC	Listed building consent to relocate two roof lights on either side of building (re-submission 14/01490/LBC) at 20 Cowdray Close, Woolstone
	WIDER PUBLICITY
14/02589/MIN	Construction of waste transfer station, ready mixed concrete plant and overnight parking of 14 x HGVs at Cotton Valley Sewage Works, Portway, Pineham

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
MAJOR

14/02516/FUL	Construction of 66 bed care home for older people with associated car parking and landscaping (resubmission of 14/00658/FUL) at Land At Barnsdale Drive, Westcroft
14/02608/FUL	Erection of 36 x dwellings with a relocated site access and associated infrastructure and landscaping works at Land At The Gables, Lower End Road, Wavendon
14/02687/FUL	Variation of condition 2 attached to planning permission 08/01331/MKPC to provide a wheeled sports area at Brooklands Meadows Linear Park, Brooklands

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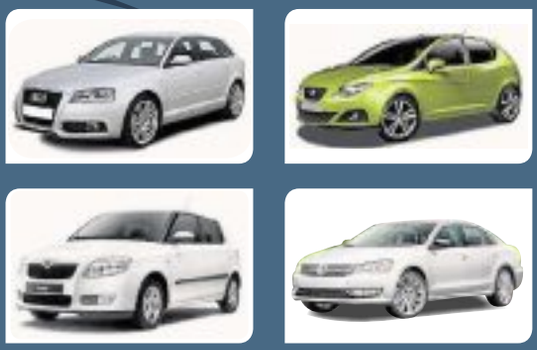

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MK Dons head of coaching Richie Barker writes exclusively for MK NEWS

Baldock: FA Cup defeat will be forgotten if we get promotion

WE PLAYED Chesterfield in the FA Cup on Saturday and lost 1-0, and obviously on Monday we found out about this possible ineligible player issue.

I probably don't know enough about that but Chesterfield have owned up to what happened and now it's just in the hands of the powers that be.

We'll have to accept whatever happens and it's one of those things.

As Karl said on Saturday, we had a bit of an off day against Chesterfield on Saturday. There were things that didn't fall for us in the first half.

We came in at half time though having had the best two or three chances, and the fact we can play against a team like that and create what we did despite us perhaps not being at our best is a real positive.

We have been able to bounce back from cup defeats very well this season and if we can do that on Saturday then we'll be very happy.

Preston North End are the team we play on Saturday and they have been there or thereabouts all throughout the season.

Preston is the start of a really tough run with us also playing Oldham Athletic at home and Notts County away.

If you include the trip to Sheffield United in that from last week, that's four out of the top seven in League One, so that shows you how tough it is.

But by the time we get around to the New Year, we will have played Bristol City away, Peterborough United away, Chesterfield away, Sheffield United away, Notts County away and Preston away, so for us to be where we are with those games in mind is great.

We obviously won't be taking games for granted going into 2015, but we have got some very tough games done already, and there are plenty more tough ones to come.

The players have had a bit of a rest but me and Karl have just got back from Holland so we've had a busy time.

The Christmas period of games is coming up now and that's always a busy time of the year, so it's very important that the players feel fresh and that is why they have had those days off since the game against Chesterfield.

Maybe there was a bit of tiredness about us at the weekend, so we probably did need to freshen up that little bit after all the games we've played so far this season.

We always aim to go out to win a game and that is what we will be doing against Preston on Saturday.

We'll play that game, reassess depending on what the result it, and then go out to try and win the next match.

We have a half-decent record against some of the top teams in the division, and our wins over Swindon Town and Sheffield United highlight that, so to come into this game on the back of that 1-0 victory at Bramall Lane and to win again would obviously be very nice.

But we need to work hard to do that.

We played against Brighton & Hove Albion yesterday in a Final Third Development League Cup match and we had a few first-team regulars playing in that with George Baldock, Danny Green, Tom Flanagan playing, as well as Giorgio Rasulo and Harry Hickford.

We lost 2-0 but the lads showed a really good attitude. We worked hard in the game and we did OK.

FOLLOWING MK Dons' display against Chesterfield, fullback George Baldock was understandably disappointed but believes the result will quickly be erased if the Dons can achieve promotion.

Dons went down to a 52nd-minute header from striker Armand Gnanduillet, but Baldock tried to take the positives.

He said: "It's time to concentrate on the league and if we go up this will soon be forgotten."

The player made his comeback at the weekend after a long absence due to injury and was pleased to get back.

He said: "It's good to be back and in the shirt with the crowd singing my name."

Baldock suffered ankle ligament damage against Bristol City back in September and thought the world was against him.

"The injury lasted a long time, first four weeks then a scan showed up to eight and then it was closer to twelve," he said.

A croaky Baldock also said that the same flu that struck Robinson down all week was making its way through the camp and he believed he caught his off room-mate Daniel Powell.

Meanwhile, players from MK Dons have become the first VIPs in the country to lend their names to a table at Bella Italia!

From mid-December, customers who book the special table can dine under a framed and signed shirt which the team donated to mark the official opening of Bella's 81st restaurant at the MK1 leisure park.

The table was revealed at a party to celebrate the restaurant's launch.

League focus: George Baldock, *right*, hopes a promotion push can make up for Dons' cup exit

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JAN 17	SHEFF UTD(H) L1
JAN 24	BARNSLEY (H) L1

FORMULA ONE

Boss-man Bernie's Red Bull relief

FORMULA One boss Bernie Ecclestone says that he was disappointed by Sebastian Vettel's attitude in this year's championship.

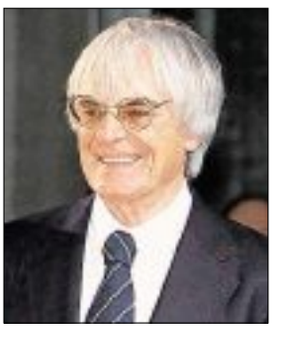
Writing in the official F1 review book, Ecclestone accused Vettel of 'acting like a defeated guy', and also expressed his relief at the fact the German failed to win a fifth straight title.

"I'm a super supporter of Sebastian but I'm a little bit disappointed with his attitude," said Ecclestone, *pictured*.

"He's acting like a defeated guy and he isn't - that's not his mentality. He's a competitive guy.

"I don't think we could have lived with another Red Bull year, any more than we could have lived with another [Michael] Schumacher year (said in reference to the Ferrari driver's titles won every year between 2000 and 2004).

Meanwhile, the double points rule has been dropped for next season, and extra Grand Prixs will take place in Korea and Mexico next year, which means there will be 21 races in total.



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		P	Home W	D	L	GF	GA	Away W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Bristol City	19	6	2	1	16	8	5	4	1	20	11	17	39
2	Swindon	19	6	3	1	20	11	5	2	2	16	9	16	38
3	MK DONS	18	7	2	1	26	9	4	2	2	13	9	21	37
4	Preston NE	19	5	3	1	18	11	6	1	3	14	8	13	37
5	Sheffield Utd	19	4	3	3	11	9	5	1	3	14	13	3	31
6	Oldham Ath	19	5	3	1	15	10	2	6	2	13	10	8	30
7	Notts County	18	3	2	4	12	12	5	4	0	13	5	8	30
8	Rochdale	19	3	2	5	11	12	5	1	3	21	12	8	27
9	Peterborough	19	4	2	4	14	15	4	1	4	12	9	2	27
10	Bradford City	19	3	2	5	13	15	4	3	2	13	10	1	26
11	Fleetwood	19	4	4	1	11	7	3	0	7	8	11	1	25
12	Chesterfield	19	4	3	2	13	11	2	4	4	13	15	0	25
13	Walsall	19	3	4	2	9	5	2	4	4	6	11	-1	23
14	Barnsley	19	3	2	5	19	21	3	3	3	10	10	-2	23
15	Port Vale	19	4	2	3	14	12	2	3	5	11	15	-2	23
16	Doncaster	18	1	3	4	5	11	5	2	3	14	14	-6	23
17	Crawley Town	19	4	3	3	11	15	1	4	4	8	14	-10	22
18	Coventry City	19	4	3	3	12	13	1	3	5	9	15	-7	21
19	Leyton Orient	19	1	3	5	10	14	3	4	3	14	15	-5	19
20	Gillingham	19	4	4	2	14	12	0	3	6	6	15	-7	19
21	Scunthorpe	18	2	1	5	7	14	3	3	4	16	19	-10	19
22	Colchester	19	2	2	5	10	14	2	3	5	14	20	-10	17
23	Yeovil Town	19	1	4	5	5	15	3	1	5	9	15	-16	17
24	Crewe	19	3	2	5	9	17	1	2	6	6	20	-22	16

MKSPORT

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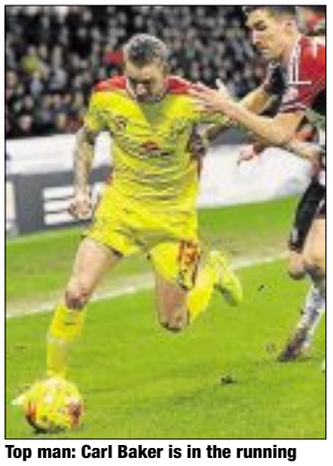
PLAYER OF THE MONTH



Top man: Carl Baker is in the running

Name your star player

IT'S time to have your say and vote for your MK Dons player of the month for November.

MK WEB and MK NEWS have teamed up with the club to give fans the opportunity to choose their best performing Don each and every month.

And with the Dons flying high in League One it will be a tough choice for fans with many standout performances from the team and players.

To cast your vote, simply visit our website and its own dedicated MK Dons channel - www.mkweb.co.uk/mk-dons - and then register your vote on the appropriate article.

And it won't just be the most popular player who wins - by casting your vote you could be a winner too.

One lucky fan who votes will be selected at random to win two Club Red tickets for the Dons' home game with Oldham Athletic on December 20.

And it doesn't stop there.

The supporter will also get the opportunity to present the winning player with a bottle of champagne prior to kick-off.

We already know who the Football League thinks has been the best player in League One last month after Carl Baker won the prestigious League One Player of the Month award, but now it's your turn to pick who you think has been your favourite player.

Benik Afobe has already won the award twice, with Dele Alli once this season, and November certainly was a fantastic month for Dons.

The club record was smashed when Dons hammered Colchester United 6-0, while the 2-1 success over second-placed Swindon Town was a crucial victory.

The month has helped Dons up to third in the table, two points off top of the table Bristol City.

The closing date to cast your vote is Wednesday December 17- and the games under consideration in November are:

November 1: MK DONS 2-1 Swindon Town
November 8: Port Vale 3-4 MK DONS
November 22: MK DONS 1-0 Port Vale
November 25: MK DONS 2-2 Rochdale
November 29: MK DONS 6-0 Colchester United.

So don't miss out on this chance to crown your star man by visiting www.mkweb.co.uk/mk-dons

ICE HOCKEY

No favours for old favourites

Light work: MK Lightning eased past Chelmsford Chieftains despite being under-strength for the tie

MK LIGHTNING were missing three players on England duty but it couldn't stop them cruising to victory.

They stormed to a 5-2 win in their English Challenge Cup game against lower league Chelmsford Chieftains

A hattrick from Blaz Emersic plus two by Michael Farn gave Lightning their victory which came despite the trio of Jordan Hedley, Jordan Cownie and Lewis Hook being away on England duty.

The Essex side had a number of familiar faces amongst their ranks with former players Lukas Zatopek and Dwayne Newman who coaches the side.

With so many players away it gave the likes of Connor Goode, Harrison Goode and Nidal Phillips regular time on the ice.

Lightning carried the momentum and dominance throughout the whole game, not allowing Chelmsford any opportunity to cause an upset.

On top of that with only the one game this weekend Lightning gave all they had in the knowledge their next game is not until Wednesday night against Swindon Wildcats. After the win MK Lightning captain Adam Carr said: "Chelmsford are a good skating team and well organised. I think they are the strongest team from the NIHL we have played this year so we knew we had to be well-prepared for the game.

"We were missing the young lads who are away with GB U20s and obviously down to two imports so I think 5-2 was probably a fair result.

"We were probably not at our best but we controlled the game for the most part.

"Michael Farn got us going with two nice first period goals, then Blaz Emersic got a great hattrick and it was two points in the bag.

"It was also nice to welcome back two MK legends in Dwayne and Lukas. Both of these guys were top servants to our club who I can't speak highly enough of."

The three players at the World Junior Championships started with a 4-2 victory over Holland.

RUGBY UNION

Bletchley still chasing victory

BLETCHLEY put in a good first half performance against Trowbridge despite their continued injury problems, but they remain winless after yet another defeat in South West One East.

It was only when the Bletchley pack began to run out of steam that Trowbridge were able to draw away in the second half.

Matt Nobes and Phil Harman both notched up tries which helped Bletchley to a 17-14 lead at half time.

But Trowbridge notched up 35 unanswered points in the second half to ease to a 52-17 win.

There was a rare win for Milton Keynes in Southern Counties North as they defeated Beaconsfield 20-17.

Olney's opponents at the Rec on Saturday were old adversaries, from the pre league days, Dunstablians.

The visitors kicked off on a fine but cold afternoon, and Olney were immediately on the offensive returning the ball into the opposition's 22 and gaining a scrum from a knock on. The return of Ollie Caplin, Brendan Kerr, Jonny Munday, Will Edwards, and Stuart Livesey outside the scrum added some pace and direction to the backs.

And Olney are now third in the Midlands Two East (South) division after a 40-12 win, with Stuart Livesey getting the ball rolling for a converted try early on. Dunstablians got a try back before Caplin put Olney 14-5 up, and a Will Edwards converted try put Olney 21-5 to the good before half time.

Tries from Livesey and Edwards raised the scoreline to 33-5, before Dunstablians scored a try, but Olney had the last laugh to make it 40-12 victory.

TEAM: Tom Shields, Jim Osborn, Jack Harris, Peter TG, George Stanton, Ollie Francis, Jack Sutton (capt.), Joseph O'Connor, Ollie Caplin, Brendan Kerr, Lloyd Sweeney, Stuart Livesey, Ollie Simmons, Will Edwards, Jonny Munday SUBS: Charlie Harris, Matt Shotton, Will Parkin.

SPORTSSHORTS

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

GOALS from Josh Crawley and Dom Lawless secured a 2-1 success for Newport Pagnell Town at Oadby Town on Saturday after they lost 1-0 at home to Cogenhoe United midweek in the United Counties League Premier Division.

In Division One, Olney Town lost 1-0 against Lutterworth Athletic, but beat Irchester United 2-0 last Tuesday.

In the Milton Keynes Sunday Football League, Stony Stratford Town beat Inter Faith 6-2, Swanfica won 5-2 against Open University, Wolverton Town were 2-0 winners against Punjab United and The Garage MK lost 3-0 to Willen.

HOCKEY

MILTON Keynes mens 1sts beat Spencer 3-1 thanks to goals from Liam Foster, Ali McColl and Fraser McColl in the South Hockey League Premier Division 1.

The ladies 1sts lost 2-1 against Witney in the South Clubs' Women's Hockey League Division 3A.

ATHLETICS

MARSHALL Milton Keynes Athletics Club consolidated their second place in the Chiltern cross-country league with another good all-round team performance in the third fixture at Luton.

Steve Tuttle, after his fine fifth place in the previous week's Wolverton Five, went two better here, leading his team home around the 10km course with a strong finish to place third from just over 200 runners.

Lara Bromilow put in her best race of the season for second place in the senior women's event where there were 85 finishers.

The u15 boys were runners-up to Bedford.

On the road Liam Smith finished third in the annual Nene Valley 10-mile road race at Peterborough. His time of 54.54 was the best time for a MMKAC runner for more than 10 years.

KORFBALL

MK LAKERS 1sts beat Kent-based KV2 14-13, the second team lost to Farnborough 13-11, and the third team beat MK Bucks 5-0.

MK SPORTS AWARDS

THE stars of city sport were celebrated on December 2 at the Sport Milton Keynes Annual Sports Achiever of the Year Awards.

At a packed Shenley Leisure Centre, more than 200 guests attended the Awards evening to honour the teams and individuals who achieved great success in 2014.

The Sport Milton Keynes Personality of the Year Award went to Chris and Gabby Adcock in recognition of their Badminton Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games.

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Struggling Bletchley still at the bottom of league
page 51

Ready to kick on for Christmas

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

DONS boss Karl Robinson is hoping the rest his players have enjoyed over the past few days can help the club kick on as the busy Christmas period looms.

The players have been off since the 1-0 defeat by Chesterfield in the FA Cup on Saturday as part of a scheduled break and that rest could prove to be vital as Dons begin a run of three tough-looking games.

They travel to Preston North End on Saturday, a team who Dons currently share third place with, before entertaining play-off chasing Oldham Athletic on December 20 and travelling to Notts County on Boxing Day.

"It should be an amazing game with two good teams and we know we will have to roll our sleeves up against Preston," said Robinson.

"We certainly feel that we can go there and compete.

"Preston fans are always so passionate, they get behind their team and there is a lot of history behind that football club.

"We know how difficult it's going to be but we've seen how much effort the lads have put in during games this season.

"I think Chesterfield looked like they had more energy for that game which is a consequence of the effort we've been putting in this season.

"We feel because of this break we have had the chance to completely freshen up."

Dons will be looking to extend their unbeaten league run to a superb 10 games if they can avoid defeat at Deepdale and Robinson is delighted with the progress his team is showing this season.

"I don't think anyone can groan at how we've done so far this season," said Robinson.

"The players really do care and there's a very polite atmosphere with a tremendous respect between all the players.

"I think we can start opening up a gap if there isn't one already and we want to keep that points tally up if we can.

"People can get carried away and for us to be at that two points per game mark now shows how remarkable the players have been this year because they've worked so hard.

"Now we've got to keep going and keep our foot on the accelerator because this is a very good group."

Proud: Karl Robinson was full of praise for his charges as Dons have played their way into third place – just two points off league leaders Bristol City

Meanwhile, Chesterfield will have until 5pm tomorrow to answer charges that they fielded an ineligible player in Saturday's FA Cup tie.

The Spireites played Georg Margreitter, on loan from Wolves, in the game, though it is alleged that paperwork was not submitted to allow him to play.

An MK Dons statement said: "The FA has made the club aware of an allegation that Chesterfield fielded an ineligible player in the FA Cup second-round fixture on Saturday. The club will respectfully await the FA's decision before making any further comment."

If Chesterfield are found guilty they could be fined but permitted to remain in the competition; a replay may take place between the two sides; or Chesterfield could be ejected with Dons taking their place in the third round against Scunthorpe or Worcester.

THIS IS WHAT SOME OF THE EXHIBITORS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE LAST MK JOB SHOW...

SURPRISINGLY A LOT OF REALLY GOOD TECHNICAL PEOPLE FROM AUDITING, IT AND CONSULTING BACKGROUNDS - PEOPLE WE WERE SURPRISED TO MEET, A GREAT MIX AND A REAL SUCCESS.

Deloitte

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PJ Care

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Travis Perkins

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REALLY GOOD CALIBRE OF PEOPLE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER - GREAT SUCCESS.

BP

I'VE BEEN REALLY SURPRISED BY THE TYPE OF PEOPLE - SUCH A BROAD RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY PEOPLE. DEFINITELY RECOMMEND EXHIBITING AT FUTURE MK JOB SHOWS AND WE HAVE ALREADY BOOKED JANUARY 2015.

Santander

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